PM J-AIT ITV Operations and Training Newsletter

May 2006

pmJ-AIT
PRODUCT MANAGER
JOINT-AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY

Check out the PM J-AIT Web site at: http://www.eis.army.mil/AIT to view the latest PM J-AIT contract(s) for AIT and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) hardware, software, technical engineering services, and maintenance.

Late Tag Write Reports/Data Analysis

For this month's newsletter, we have looked at one of the new data quality reports available on the National ITV Server. A late write happens when tag data is not uploaded to the ITV server, but the tag begins to move through the distribution pipeline being read by RF interrogators. The data collected by the RF read interrogators is then uploaded to the ITV servers creating a "blank tag" in the ITV database. The tag will continue to be read and uploaded as a blank tag until the tag write data is uploaded. Once the tag write data is uploaded, the tag will no longer appear on the ITV server as a blank tag. The impact of a late write tag is that it creates a blank tag on the ITV server, and it distorts other systems, i.e., Battle Command Sustainment Support System (BCS3). Systems, such as BCS3, would have a read event with data showing as an undefined tag providing no visibility/tracking of unit moves or sustainment. In addition, customer wait-time metrics are distorted and Global Transportation Network (GTN) processing is hampered. To avoid a "late tag write," it is important to make sure you have uploaded the tag data by performing a quick ITV server query before your shipment/cargo begins to move.

In the report generated on 10 April 2006, there were 754 tags uploaded to the ITV server 48 hours or more after being written. The sites that reported the highest number of late tags during this report period were:

# OF TAGS	INTERROGATOR ID	INTERROGATOR NAME	AVERAGE HOURS BEFORE TAG WRITE WAS UPLOADED
238	24705	TALILLEW099	138
60	T904050171	ALTAQADDUMW13	54
51	T901090029	BALADW7	141
45	T27040	ARFIJANW9	239
42	T90207090003	LIVORNOAFSBLIW1	89
39	T27081	ARIFJANW2	55
39	T904050098	ALTAQADDUMW2	109
39	T905020156	TAJIW2-S	577
36	T904050107	ALTAQADDAMW20	68
33	T905020132	BALADW1-S	92
19	65000SITV	SUNNYVALEW31	170
16	T903050092	ASAD W2	124
14	T904070110	BAGRAMW03	73
13	T903050023	TALLILW2	49
12	DVA0018_W	CEDARIIW3-D	62

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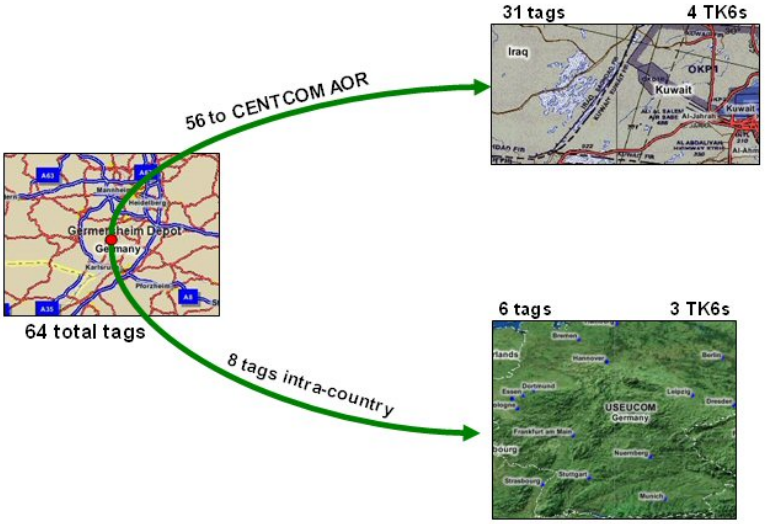
If this newsletter has been forwarded to you and you would like to be added to the distribution list, please send your request via E-mail to PM J-AIT (Jerry Rodgers) at jerry.d.rodgers@us.army.mil.

A Day in the Life at Germersheim Depot

This analysis considered shipments prepared on 3 April 2006 at two randomly selected RFID write stations at Germersheim Depot in Germany. We followed these shipments from their point of origin to their destination through 28 April 2006.

GERMERSHEIMW4 (T27061) wrote 58 tags – Fifty-six tags written were destined for CENTCOM AOR. Two tags were intra-country shipments within Germany.

Of the 56 tags going to the Theater, 31 tags (or 55%) have reached their destination. Twenty-five tags (or 45%) still appear to be moving. However, as of 28 April, three shipments of lumber for MMX200 have not been seen leaving Germersheim through the Exit Gate and four shipments (5680993910852 WALL, PROTE) to W913KX have not been read again after they left Germersheim on 4 April at 13:20 GMT. We noted that the trip from Germersheim to the Turkish border (HABUR GATE IZ CHECK POINT) was taking 10 - 14 days and that shipments could stay at the boarder from 3 to 9 days waiting for convoy escort. Only 4 of the 31 tags that reached their destination closed with a "TK6" transaction.



Of the two intra-country tags, both have reached their destination. One tag closed with a TK6, and the other tag reported a low battery indicator.

GERMERSHEIMW3 (T205) wrote 6 tags – Six tags written were intra-country shipments within Germany.

Of the six tags, four tags (67%) have reached their final destination. Two of those four tags were closed out with a TK6. For the remaining two tags (4376623 and 4376618), we were unable to determine if they reached final destination as there was a disparity between the address on the DODAAC file and the final stop point of the tags.

Conclusion: Of the total 64 tags written at both GERMERSHEIMW3 and GERMERSHEIMW4, 37 tags (58%) have reached their final destination. Of the 37 shipments that have reached their final destination, 7 tags created a TK6s.

Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) Personnel Receive ITV Server Management Training

On 10-13 April 2006, CASCOM personnel provided ITV Server Management Training at TACOM in Warren, MI. Ninety-two item managers and logistics personnel received an overview of the ITV server with emphasis on the most important and frequently used ITV server query techniques. Attendees also received an overview of the new RF-ITV Tracking Portal.

TACOM's mission is to provide and sustain mobility, lethality, and survivability for soldiers, members of other services, and our Allies through ground combat, automotive, marine, and armaments technologies.

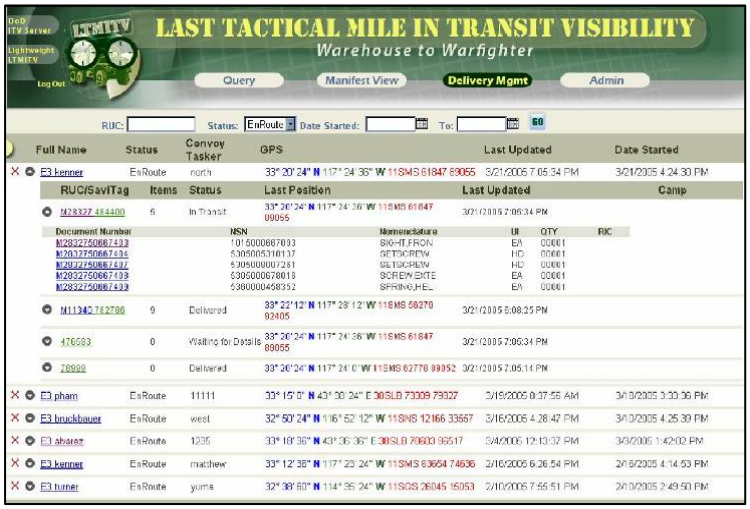
Marines Implement RFID Technology in Iraq

Article provided by MAJ Anthony Fabiano, Combat Service Support Element (CSSE), Combat Logistic Regiment-15

The Marines assigned to Supply Company, Combat Logistics Regiment (CLR)–15 are implementing the Marine Corps' "Warehouse to Warfighter" (W2W) initiative to track shipments in-transit. The W2W kit is used by a pallet rider on every CLR-15 General Support (GS) logistics convoy in Iraq. This technology enables users to track shipments and have complete visibility of critically needed supplies. The W2W Kit is durable, very easy to use, and man-portable. The system has proven itself in a combat environment and provides a valuable capability. As with any new technology, there are additional refinements being pursued by the Program Manager at Marine Corps Systems Command to make it even more effective. Improved power source and hardware platforms are the focus of effort. Supply Company has a team of ITV experts that operate a variety of systems (Portable Deployment Kits, RFID) and can execute oversight, quality control, and training to ensure they are effectively employed in Iraq.

W2W does not replace an existing system, but rather it fills an operational void that has limited the effectiveness of combat service support. W2W is an expeditionary system that can track sustainment at the tactical level of the supply chain. W2W kits are used on all GS logistics convoys operating in the Al Anbar Province to provide visibility between Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) located at Al Taqaddum, Al Asad, Fallujah, Korean Village, Al Qaim, and Ar Ramadi. The integration of W2W in the GS logistics convoys, in conjunction with fixed W2W kits employed at the major FOBs, provides the capability to track cargo to the "Last Tactical Mile" (LTM).

In an attempt to improve the Logistics Common Operational Picture (LCOP) provided by BCS3, coordination was made to integrate W2W data and make it accessible via BCS3. Furthermore, the data resident in the ITV server provides critical information, but it is not consistently used by individual Marines submitting requisitions via the supply system (SASSY). To offset this shortfall and provide additional visibility, data is pulled from the ITV server on a daily basis and converted into an "AS1" supply transaction that will post to a unit's "Due and Status File" (DASF). A DASF is what the individual Marine uses to track an incoming requisition. The ITV information is automatically fed to the source record (SASSY) which allows a Marine to watch the item travel across the globe and be read by different interrogators from the same system used to submit the requisition.



This same approach is followed with W2W. As entries are made in W2W, supply transactions are also created. At the final receipt, the W2W allows you to enter the individual's name and rank. This data is sent with the "AS2" transaction that posts to the unit's DASF; and now you have visibility of who signed for the equipment. This process reduces excess requisitions for items that are already on order and therefore has built confidence in the supply system.

Our ability to track battlefield sustainment cargo to the end recipient has been greatly enhanced by these new technologies and processes.

Our thanks to Major Fabiano for his article—Editor.

Good News from Camp Anaconda, Iraq

Information provided by Emmett Wayne, Communications and Electronics Command (CECOM) Standard Army Management Information System (STAMIS) Logistics Assistance Representative (LAR), Camp Anaconda, Iraq

The Joint Distribution Center (JDC) in Balad, Iraq is a logistics hub for the entire country. Many trucks, packages, containers, pallets, etc., pass through the JDC each day. Many of them are tagged, some are not. Mr. Emmett Wayne shared with us several recent situations where RFID and the ITV server aided in the distribution of supplies and equipment.

1. Recently, the JDC was contacted by a LAR in Baghdad. A modem cable for a communications system was shipped from Germany on 21 March. As of 10 April, the part had not arrived. The ITV server showed that the last location was the JDC yard. After some research, they were able to locate the part in a tri-wall container, on a flatbed destined for the location. They were able to pull the box and mail it to the unit, saving a few days of transit and wait time.
2. A couple of weeks ago, an engineer unit in Baghdad was looking for a Tool Outfit, Hydraulic System Test and Repair Unit (HSTRU) that had been shipped from the United States. The 3rd COSCOM Logistics Management Specialist was able to obtain the RF tag number of the shipment. After entering the tag number into the ITV server, it was determined that the equipment had been at the Air Force Cargo Facility on Balad since 12 February. They went to the facility, where they were able to locate the equipment and transported it back to the office where it was held until the unit picked up the equipment that afternoon.
3. A medical unit in Baghdad had shipped 4 containers of excess medical equipment to the Defense Reutilization Management Office (DRMO) in Balad. Shipment had been enroute for over 2 weeks, and the unit was trying to find it. Once the unit provided the RF tag numbers to the DRMO, they were able to use the ITV server and locate the containers at the JDC yard in the Misrouted Cargo Holding area. The containers were delivered to the DRMO the next day.

Yes, Virginia, RFID does work!

Our thanks to Emmett for these RF-ITV success stories—Editor.

National Stock Numbers (NSNs) at Your Fingertips!

Item/Model Number	NSN
Savi Tag ST-654 with 128 Kb Ram, Model ST-654-001	6350-01-523-1998
Savi ISO Container Door Tag, Model ST-656-I	6350-01-531-6358
Savi Tag 654/656-I Replaceable Battery, Size "A" Lithium 3.6V,3.3AH, Model Bat-1125	6135-01-524-7621
Savi ST-654 Data Cable, RS-232 (DB9) Connection, Model STA-1030	*Not assigned/CLIN# 4001CA
Savi Write Adapter for Savi Tag 654 and Savi ISO Container Door Tag, Model STA-1031	*Not assigned/CLIN# 4001CC
Savi Docking Station Adapter for the Savi Tag 654, Model SDSA-654-01	*Not assigned/CLIN# 4001CB
Magnetic Mounting Bracket	5340-01-495-3007
Cable Tie Down Strap	5975-00-899-4606
Savi 410 Batteries	6135-01-301-8776
Lacing Wire	9505-00-640-4290
Lithium-ion Battery Pack for the PDT 8146 (terminal) Model 1UF-103450P-052	6140-01-499-7364
Lithium-ion Battery Pack for the PDT 7200 (portable data terminal)	6140-01-476-5414
NiCad Battery Pack for Savi 410R Handheld Interrogator	6140-01-501-3344
Replacement screw that attaches the 410 tag to its magnetic bracket, Screw, Machine **(NEW)**	5305-00-054-6652

Product Manager for PM J-AIT Departs

The staff of PM J-AIT bids farewell to LTC Beth Rowley as she departs PM J-AIT. During the last two years, she provided outstanding leadership to PM J-AIT during a period of steady growth in both customer base and technology reach. Among her accomplishments were the awarding of multiple passive RFID technology blanket purchase agreements which expanded our capability in both active and passive RFID technologies; implementing formalized configuration management of the ITV system; and strengthening relationships with Coalition Partners throughout the NATO community. During her tenure, PM J-AIT received numerous industry awards and recognitions including the 2006 *Excellence.Gov* Award for Information Sharing; 2005 Army Acquisition Excellence Award; 2005 *Government Computer News* Agency Award for Ongoing ITV Support; and the 2005 *Defense Logistics* Award for In-Theater Contractor-Military Collaboration of the Year Award.

Her next position will be Executive Officer, Project Director - Enterprise Integration. We will miss LTC Rowley, and we extend our congratulations and best wishes in her future endeavors.

Farewell, LTC Rowley

PM J-AIT Welcomes a New Product Manager

LTC Patrick W. Burden assumed duties as Product Manager for the Joint Automatic Identification Technology Program on May 9, 2006 and has over twelve years of acquisition experience.

Prior to this assignment, he was a staff officer for the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology directly supporting the Acquisition Business Transformation effort for the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Plans, Programs, and Resources.

Upon graduating from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science, LTC Burden was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army Field Artillery, serving tactical units in 3rd Armored Division in Germany and Southwest Asia during Operations DESERT SHIELD/STORM and I Corps Artillery at Fort Lewis, WA.

His acquisition assignments include: Project Officer, US Army Information Systems Software Development Center – Lee; Assistant Project Manager for the Aviation Electronic Combat and Comanche Program Management Office, Program Executive Office Aviation; Project Leader for the Information Warfare Program Management Office, Deputy for Systems Acquisition for the Communications and Electronic Command; and Program Analyst, later Program Manager, for the Global Transportation Network Program Management Office, US Transportation Command.

In addition to his degree from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, LTC Burden earned a Master of Science Degree from Florida Institute of Technology in Management Information Systems. He is also a graduate of the US Army Command and General Staff College; the Armed Forces Staff College; and the Program Manager Course at the Defense Systems Management College.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and several other awards and decorations, including the Parachutist Badge and Army Staff Badge.

He is married to the former Veorah A. McDougald and has four children Preston (19), Prescott (19), Kendra (7), and Khyra (4).

Welcome aboard, LTC Burden

From and For the Field…

SAVI SR-650 READ INTERROGATORS

In preparation for the future introduction of 32 bit RF tags into the distribution pipeline, PM J-AIT is in the process of refreshing (upgrading) the read interrogator infrastructure. Current read interrogators are being replaced with the SAVI SR-650 read interrogators to support the reading of 32 bit tags. As Field Service Engineers (FSE) replace the interrogators, they will register the new SR-650 read interrogators using the same naming convention and contact information already on the ITV server. **The only difference the customers/users will see is the change in the interrogator ID number, reflecting the new interrogator serial number.** So be aware of this new interrogator ID number as you perform queries on the ITV server.

RFID CUSTOMER SUPPORT DESK

1-800-877-7925
(6 am – 4 pm EST)

Email: help@rfitv.army.mil

The RFID Customer Support Desk should be contacted before any attempt to reach an FSE in your area.

Frank Curtis, UNISYS RF-ITV FSE, recently received a letter of appreciation from Sierra Army Depot for his professionalism and expertise in the design, installation, implementation, operation, and maintenance of the RFID infrastructure at the Depot. The letter cited Frank's outstanding efforts in streamlining the depot's shipping and tracking processes.

Congratulations, Frank!

***2005 ITV Server Guide and 2005 RFID Operations Guide*:**
http://www.cascom.army.mil/Automation/ITV/index.htm

TIPS Write and Read Operations Tutorial:
https://national.rfitv.army.mil/TT/

***ITV Servers*:**
National: https://national.rfitv.army.mil
European: https://europeitv.aelog.army.mil/
Pacific: https://usfkitv.korea.army.mil
SWA: https://cenitv1.arifjan.arcent.army.mil
Training: https://trainer.rfitv.army.mil

If you have a noteworthy RF-ITV success story, anecdote, lesson-learned, or short article for publication in the newsletter, please submit to PM J-AIT (Jerry Rodgers) at jerry.d.rodgers@us.army.mil.